रहा है। जैसे कॉमर्शियल प्रोडक्शन के स्तर का एक विश्वास आएगा, उस का कॉमर्शियल प्रोडक्शन शुरु होगा, लेकिन अब तक जो सफलता मिली है, उस से उम्मीद होती है कि हम राजस्थान में कुछ अधिक अच्छा काम कर पाएंगे।

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : Sir, I am not driving the hon. Minister from Uttar Pradesh to Gujarat. My supplementary is arising out of the second part of his reply. All the States have a proprietary right over their resources; and, according to the New Exploration Licensing Policy, the sale profit has also to be given to the States. On the basis of that Policy, a meeting was held between the Gujarat Government and the Government of India, where a decision was taken and a proposal was sent to the Government of India by the Gujarat Government within 10 days. The meeting was held on 8th September, and the proposal was sent on 20th September, 2000. Since then we are hearing that it needs an Inter-Ministerial discussion and then only they will take a decision. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, as far as this aspect of sharing the profit is concerned, how much time it will take and when the Gujarat Government will get its share.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This question does not arise out of it. Question No.203.

*203. *[The questioner (Prof. M. M. Agarwal) was absent. For answer vide page 23 infra.]*

Growth rate of per capita income

204. SHRI JIBON ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the rate of growth of per capita income during 1996-97 to 2000-01 (financial year-wise) at constant 1993-94 price?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The rate of growth of per capita income during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99,1999-2000 and 2000-01 (financial year wise) at constant (1993-94) prices, is 6.3 per cent, 2.8 per cent, 4.8 per cent, 4.8 per cent and 3.5 per cent respectively.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the fugures given by the hon. Minister indicate that the decline in the economy is not a recent phenomenon.

The growth rate of per capita income has gone down from 6.3 per cent in 1996-97 to 3.5 per cent in 2000-2001, and the decline is much more in the current financial year. It indicates that it is not directly linked to the international slow-down alone. Something else is there. It is being written, nowadays, by many economists that it is the consequence of a jobless growth. Initially, when the economy was integrated with globalisation, there was a boom in the market. Now there is a demand constraint. Would the hon. Minister agree that because of demand constraint the economy is declining? What steps has the Government taken to meet the expenditure demand of the people?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, it is nobody's case and certainly not the Government's case that the slowdown that the Indian economy is experiencing is entirely on account of the external environment. It is also not the Government's case that it is of recent origin; that it is linked to the 11th September. That has never been the stand that the Government has taken. The Government is aware of the fact that there is slowdown in the Indian economy. I have already explained about the slowdown in the Indian economy. I had stood in this House and explained that there were some external reasons for the slowdown. The external reason, as I had mentioned in this House on a previous occasion, is the collapse of the technology stocks in the USA which impacted on our technology sector also. It is because of the increase in the international oil prices which went up by almost 300 per cent starting from 1999 and throughout 2000—until the prices softened recently that we had to raise the consumer price of petroleum products which had an impact on the growth of consumption. In fact, the consumption, except in the month of October when it had picked up, has gone down. Diesel consumption has actually declined. So, these are the global factors. The most important factor which brought the Indian economy into the slowdown phase, I have repeatedly said, is the slowdown in the Indian agriculture over the last two years, i.e. 1999-2000 when the contribution of agriculture to the GDP declined considerably as compared to the previous year. I had also stated in this House that because something like 70 per cent of our people live in rural areas and depend on agriculture and allied sectors, there has been a contraction of demand. As a result, their purchasing power is going down. This is the major domestic reason why there is a slowdown in demand. Because of various other facts including the slowdown in demand, investment has also slowed down. These are the reasons for the slowdown of the Indian economy. The hon. Member is quite right in quoting the figures which I have given. But I would like to remind him that while it was 6.3 per

cent, in 1996-97, it was 7.8 per cent which was the highest growth rate that we have seen in recent years. That was the growth rate of GDP. Therefore, the per capita income is 6.3 per cent. That was the growth rate. But if you see the next year, 1997-98, it came down to something like 2.8 per cent and 3.5 per cent is certainly better than 2.8 per cent. It came down to 2.8 per cent in 1997-98 for the simple reason that the growth of the Indian economy declined from a high of 7.8 per cent in 1996-97 to 4.8 per cent in 1997-98. So the growth rate had an impact on the per capita income. That is the reason why per capita income has declined. Nobody is under any illusion. I would like to disabuse the mind of the hon. Member that it is certainly not the Government's case that it is because of the global slowdown that the Indian economy has slowed down. It had its impact. The last part of the decade 90s has been exceptional in terms of international crisis starting with the East Asian crisis. But, as a result of the policies which have been followed by the successive Governments, we have been fairly insulated from the impact of those international crisis. Even today there is a crisis in turkey. There is a crisis in Argentina. We are much better as compared to these countries.

SHRI JIBON ROY: What remedial measures have you taken? *(Interruptions).* Despite all constraints, China's growth rate is 7.5 per cent.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I had said, when I presented the Budget, that the Government was aware of the slowing down of the Indian economy. Therefore, in the Budget, we took two very important steps. We decided to soften the interest rate; create a situation which will lead to softening of interest rate, and, secondly, across the board, we reduced the taxes, instead of increasing them. When I presented the Budget on 20th February this year, everyone. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JIBON ROY: Softening of interest rates did not help the economy. The economy has collapsed; the agricultural economy is in a very bad shape in all the States....

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I have already gone on record to say that interest rate reduction alone is not a sufficient factor for fresh investment. We will have to create...*(Interruptions).*

SHRI JIBON ROY : It became counter-productive...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : It is not counter-productive. It is one of the various factors which will.help investment. Softening of interest rate will help the entrepreneurs to take investment decision; this is one of the

various factors. But I agree with the hon. Member that the expansion of demand in the domestic economy is the most important factor which will lead to expansion in investment as well. And we are hoping that because agriculture this year is doing better than in the previous two years, this will generate demand in the Indian economy and it will provide the necessary fillip to the growth of the Indian economy.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

New industries in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal

*203. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industries proposed to be set up by the Non-Resident Indians in Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh during the current financial year; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) No proposal for NRI investment has been received in respect of Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh during the current financial year up to 30.9.2001. The total number of approvals granted for NRI investments in these states during the period 1.8.1991 to 31.3.2001 is as under-

State	No.of NRI cases approved	Amount of NRI Investment approved
Uttaranchal		
Chhattisgarh	4	Rs. 625.00 lakhs
Jharkhand	3	Rs. 157.14 lakhs

Quality of Petro-products

*205. MISS MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the diesel produced by the public sector refineries is 100 times more polluted then that of the world's best; and